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Agenda Item:

5.1

Person Responsible:

Taco de
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XXXIII SCAR Delegates Meeting

Auckland, New Zealand, 1-3rd September 2014

Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SCADM)

Report to SCAR Delegates

Draft

Executive Summary

Title: Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SCADM)

Authors: Taco De Bruin (Chief Officer), Anton Van de Putte, Robert Arko (Co-Deputy Chief Officers)

Introduction/ Background: The Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SC-ADM) helps facilitate co-operation between scientists and nations with regard to scientific data. It guides the development of the Antarctic Data Directory System and advises SCAR and SCAR-members on data issues. The SCADM Terms of References are:

- Promotion of Antarctic data management
- Providing guidance to the Antarctic Master Directory host
- Establishing Antarctic data management policies and priorities

Important Issues or Factors:

▪ **More National Antarctic Data Centres (NADCs) needed to preserve invaluable Antarctic data**

SCAR has 37 Members and Associate Members. Yet, only some 15 (Associate) Members have established or designated a data centre or a national point of contact for Antarctic data, even though the ATCM called upon nations to establish a National Antarctic Data Centre (NADC) back in 1998. As a result very valuable Antarctic data run the risk of being lost forever.

SCADM is working on a targeted approach to include those countries not yet represented in SCADM and to help those countries in developing the required infrastructure for Antarctic data management.

▪ **Encouraging scientists to submit metadata to the Antarctic Master Directory**

The Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) forms the cornerstone of the SCAR Antarctic Data Directory System (ADDs). The AMD is the central directory system containing all Antarctic data set descriptions gathered by NADCs. It is the largest directory of Antarctic data set descriptions in the world and forms the basis for data management and data preservation for SCAR and at the national and Antarctic programme level.

It is important that SCAR projects, national Antarctic programmes and international projects require scientists to submit metadata to the Antarctic Master Directory.

Recommendations/Actions and Justification:

- Delegates from the countries not yet represented in SCADM are kindly requested to help SCADM contact the proper authorities (national Antarctic research programmes, funding agencies, etc.) within their countries or national Antarctic program and to assist in identifying data centres in their respective countries who can take on the role of National Antarctic or Polar Data Centre.
- Delegates are kindly requested to assist SCADM in making submission of metadata to the AMD a requirement for that SCAR projects, national Antarctic programmes and international projects

Expected Benefits/Outcomes:

Better preservation of Antarctic data, for future generations of scientists and for society to use.

Partners:

SCAGI, WDS, all SCAR SSGs, SCs, EG-ABI (Expert Group on Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics), etc.

Budget Implications:

\$5000 a year for SCADM, to organize the annual meetings and to support SCADM members in attending these meetings.

Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SCADM)

1. SCADM Important Issues or Factors

Introduction/ Background:

The Antarctic Treaty (section III.1.c) states: "Scientific observations and results from Antarctica shall be exchanged and made freely available."

The Standing Committee on Antarctic Data Management (SC-ADM) helps facilitate co-operation between scientists and nations with regard to scientific data. It guides the development of the Antarctic Data Directory System and advises SCAR and SCAR-members on data issues. SCADM played a major role in the International Polar Year data system ([IPYDIS](#)).

Members of SCADM are usually managers of the National Antarctic Data Centres or a relevant national contact.

ToRs are:

- Promotion of Antarctic data management,
- Providing guidance to the Antarctic Master Directory host,
- Establishing Antarctic data management policies and priorities.

1.1. Participation in SCADM

SCAR has 37 Members and Associate Members. Yet, only some 15 (Associate) Members have established or designated a data centre or a national point of contact for Antarctic data, even though the ATCM called upon nations to establish a NADC back in 1998. As a result, very valuable Antarctic data run the risk of being lost forever.

SCADM is working on a targeted approach to include those countries not yet represented in SCADM and to help those countries in developing the required infrastructure for Antarctic data management.

1.2. The Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) and the importance of metadata

The Antarctic Master Directory (AMD) is the central directory system containing all Antarctic data set descriptions gathered by NADCs. It forms the cornerstone of the ADDS, the SCAR Antarctic Data Directory System. It is the largest directory of Antarctic data set descriptions in the world and forms the basis for data management and data preservation for SCAR and at the national and Antarctic programme level. The AMD is hosted by the Global Change Master Directory (GCMD) of the CEOS-IDN network to minimise duplication of resources and metadata.

The benefits that access to the AMD provides to national programmes are:

- Facilitate access to data
- Facilitate interdisciplinary research
- Maximise the use of data
- Disseminate knowledge about Antarctic scientific programs
- Avoid duplication of research and data collection
- Improve efficiency of Antarctic scientific data management
- Facilitate new research through access to existing Antarctic scientific data
- Provide a tool for support and decision making for Antarctic operators and scientists
- Improve cooperation and interoperability between disciplines and Treaty nations
- Allow better oversight of national programmes

It is important that SCAR projects, national Antarctic programmes and international projects require scientists to submit metadata to the Antarctic Master Directory.

2. Recommendations/actions and Justification

- Delegates from the countries not yet represented in SCADM are kindly requested to help contact the proper authorities (national Antarctic research programmes, funding agencies, etc.) within their countries or national Antarctic program and to assist in identifying data centres in their respective countries who can take on the role of National Antarctic or Polar Data Centre.
- Delegates are kindly requested to assist SCADM in making submission of metadata to the AMD a requirement for that SCAR projects, national Antarctic programmes and international projects

3. Expected Benefits/Outcomes

Better preservation of Antarctic data, for future generations of scientists and for society to use.

4. Partners

Partners for SCADM include: The SCAR member nations and other SCAR related groups such as SSGs, SRPs, SCAGI, EG-ABI (Expert Group on Antarctic Biodiversity Informatics).

Other international organizations that are involved with SCADM: IASC Data Standing Committee, World Data System (WDS).

5. Budget Implications

\$5000 per year to organize the annual meetings and to support SCADM members in attending these and related meetings.